

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: VATICAN LABOR EXPERT MEETS WITH CISL LEADERS

1. A "SPIRITUAL MEETING" OF PROMINENT CISL LEADERS WAS CONVOKED BY BISHOP SANTOQUADRI AT THE COLLEGIO ROSMIGNANI (VATICAN COLLEGE) ON MARCH 29. BISHOP SANTOQUADRI IS THE VATICAN'S LABOR EXPERT WHO MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

2. VIRTUALLY ALL MAJOR CISL FIGURES WERE IN ATTENDANCE, WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF OPPOSITION LEADER VITO SCALIA. THOSE PRESENT INCLUDED SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTI; DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL LUIGI MACARIO; SECRETARIAT MEMBERS GIUSEPPE REGGIO, IDOLO MARCONE, FRANCO MARINI, MICHELANGELO CIANCAGLINI, AND ROBERTO ROMEI; PIERRE CARNITI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CISL METALWORKERS AFFILIATE, FIM; NICOLA DINAPOLI, STORTI'S AIDE; AND MARCO RICCERI, OF THE CISL RESEARCH OFFICE AND OUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE MEETING. (RICCERI IS A LEADER GRANT CANDIDATE).

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3. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO PRESENT TO THE CISL LEADER-

SHIP THE VATICAN POINT OF VIEW WITH RESPECT TO LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY. IN PARTICULAR, THE MEETING WAS DESIGNED TO UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT CATHOLIC UNION LEADERS REQUIRE THE BACKING OF THE CHURCH FOR ANY STEPS THEY INTEND TO TAKE. IN BRIEF, THE CHURCH SETS FORTH THE PARAMETERS OF ACTION AND, ACCORDING TO RICCERI, SANTOQUARDI'S SPEECH WAS "A GENTLE WARNING" TO CISL LEADERS NOT TO EXCEED THE CHURCH-SET LIMITS.

4. ALL PARTICIPANTS, BEGINNING WITH STORTI, EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AT THE MEETING AND THE STATEMENTS OF ALL WERE IN TUNE WITH THE MAIN POINTS OF BISHOP SANTOQUADRI'S PRESENTATION. ALL, RICCERI STRESSED, EMPHASIZED THEIR FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHURCH'S AUTHORITY AND THEIR OBEDIENCE TO ITS DIRECTIONS. RICCERI SAYS HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE DIFFERENCE IN TONE USED BY THE VARIOUS CISL LEADERS, INCLUDING FIREBRANDS SUCH AS CARNITI, IN THE "SPIRITUAL MEETING" COMPARED WITH THEIR PUBLIC PERSONAE; THEIR HUMBLE, DEFERENTIAL ATTITUDE WAS NOTEWORTHY.

5. RICCERI SAYS THE CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED THE SUBJECT OF LABOR UNITY, AND THAT BISHOP SANTOQUADRI MADE NO OBJECTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNIFICATION PROCESS. THE BISHOP STRESSED THE CHURCH'S NEED FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF MANY MORE CATHOLICS IN THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT AND, AMONG OTHER SUGGESTIONS, PUT FORTH THE IDEA THAT PRIESTS OUGHT TO BE SENT TO THE CISL SCHOOL AT FLORENCE.

6. COMMENT: FROM RICCERI'S ACCOUNT OF THIS MEETING, IT IS CLEAR THE VATICAN IS SEEKING TO REASSERT SOME GUIDING CONTROL OVER THE UNFOLDING OF EVENTS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT GENERALLY, AND IN CISL IN PARTICULAR. BISHOP SANTOQUADRI EVIDENTLY HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE OFFICIAL NEUTRALITY OF THE CISL ON THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM, NOR WITH THE TREND TOWARD CLOSER CO-OPERATION WITH THE CGIL. THESE FACTS MAY WELL EXPLAIN THE ABSENCE OF SCALIA OR ANY OF HIS KEY ALLIES (RICCERI SAYS SCALIA WAS NOT INVITED) FROM THE MEETING. GIVEN BISHOP SANTOQUADRI'S GENERAL APPROVAL OF CISL POLICIES, COMBINED WITH THE SUBORDINATION OF THE CISL LEADERS TO CHURCH DIRECTION, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WILL HAVE SERVED TO STRENGTHEN STORTI IN HIS DOMINANT POSITION IN CISL. VOLPE

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